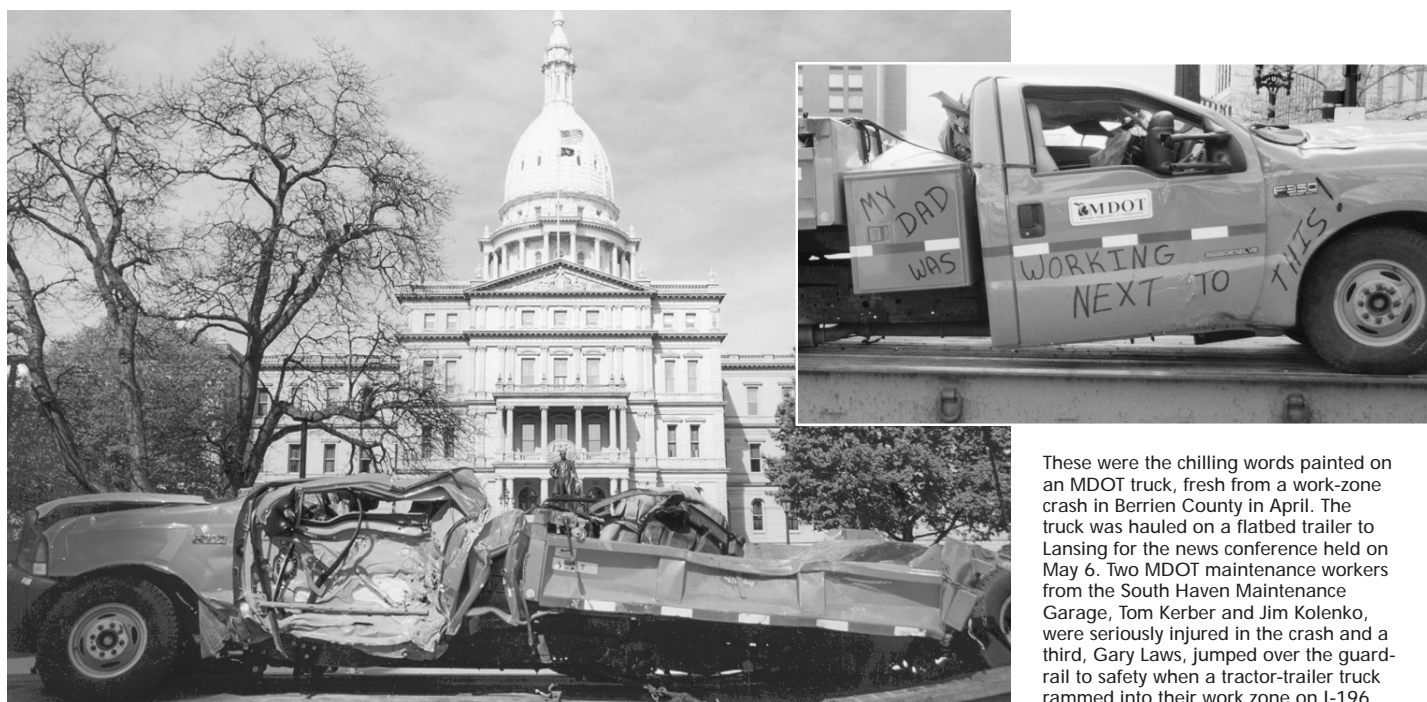


Give 'em a Brake: Taking Steps at the Capitol to Save Lives "My Dad Was Working Next to This..."



These were the chilling words painted on an MDOT truck, fresh from a work-zone crash in Berrien County in April. The truck was hauled on a flatbed trailer to Lansing for the news conference held on May 6. Two MDOT maintenance workers from the South Haven Maintenance Garage, Tom Kerber and Jim Kolenko, were seriously injured in the crash and a third, Gary Laws, jumped over the guard-rail to safety when a tractor-trailer truck rammed into their work zone on I-196.

David Roberts of Negaunee in the Upper Peninsula traveled more than 400 miles to attend the kickoff for the Give 'em a Brake news conference in Lansing. His brother, Donald Roberts, was killed in 1958, at age 19, while working on the highway near Standish and is among those listed on the National Work Zone Memorial. The memorial was the centerpiece of the Capitol news conference on May 6.

Elizabeth Richard, along with daughter Linda Wolven and son Dennis Richard (who works at MDOT's Niles Garage) were all there to pay their respects to Elizabeth's husband, and Linda and Dennis's dad, Gerald Richard, who died in 1981.

Maggie Anderson, the widow of George Anderson who died in 1977, traveled from Paw Paw to sit solemnly before the memorial, a bouquet of flowers in her lap, with her son, Pete, by her side.

The message to the news conference crowd was clear: Work zones can be dangerous places to work. Wives and sisters, husbands and brothers work there. Please, slow down and drive carefully.

The National Work Zone Memorial is dedicated to the memory of people who have lost their lives in work zones. The memorial wall is a traveling exhibit called "Respect and Remembrance: Reflections of Life on the Road," sponsored by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).

There are 27 names of Michigan people among the 900 names listed. The memorial wall includes names of not only road workers, but also law enforcement officers, public safety officials, motorists and their passengers.

At the May news conference, which was the kickoff for work-zone safety in Michigan, Director Gloria Jeff joined labor and engineering unions, law enforcement officials and construction industry representatives at the state Capitol to promote awareness for maintaining safe driving conditions throughout Michigan.

Gloria J. Jeff



Gloria J. Jeff

We're on Our Way!

"Ours is a department blessed with bright people with good ideas who bring out the best in each other."

Team MDOT is already halfway through the year and we're well on our way to accomplishing many of the goals we announced back in January. As this issue of *MDOT Today* readily attests, ours is a department blessed with bright people with good ideas who bring out the best in each other. The result is an energized, "can-do" environment where I find it rewarding (and fun) to work – as I hope you do. Thank you for consistently going the extra mile!

We had fun recognizing the contributions of Team MDOT during Employee Recognition Day on May 7 in Lansing, while TSCs and region offices held similar celebrations to honor employees. On the back cover of this issue, you can see photos of the cheer that the leadership team performed for an audience of 500 employees who gathered for food and fellowship outside the Van Wagoner Building. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who also was in attendance, was quick to point out that we "cheerleaders" shouldn't quit our day jobs! All I can say is that we hope our enthusiasm for Team MDOT made up for our lack of choreography.

Regarding employee recognition, you can read on pages 6-7 about MDOTers selected to receive the department's top award this year – the Director's Award. These nine employees deserve a standing ovation for their outstanding contributions to MDOT. Congratulations to all of you!

The 2004 Leadership Conference held in Lansing on April 19 was another opportunity to celebrate and thank employees for their contributions. I was very impressed with all the work by the Leadership Conference Planning Team that went into the event,

the presentations of special guests First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern and Dr. Marilyn French Hubbard, and especially with the participation of the 350 employees in attendance. You can read more about the conference and view a selection of photos on pages 4-5.

Another annual team effort is the Give 'em a Brake news conference, held at the start of the construction season each year to remind motorists to slow down while driving in work zones. To mark the occasion, the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) brought the National Work Zone Memorial to Lansing, and later, with the help of the Statewide Maintenance Crew, it traveled to the Clare Welcome Center. You can view photos of the event and the memorial in the cover story which continues on page 3.

I'd like to close by asking you to put a very special date on your calendar – 2005. That's right: The *entire* year will be a celebration as we observe 100 years of transportation history in Michigan and the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Michigan Highway Department on July 1, 1905. The Centennial Celebration Team has been planning a year of special observances that you will be hearing more about in the coming months. Right now, we'd like employees and retirees alike to know that a series of special events is in the works. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the planning team by e-mailing MDOT-centennial@michigan.gov.

"Thank you for consistently going the extra mile!"

Flint – Ft Wayne
Gd Rapids
EXIT 3/4 M

Give 'em a Brake
News Conference

Director's Column
We're on Our Way!

2004 Leadership Conference

2004 Director's Award
Winners

Good News

OHR Update

MDOT Family Tree

Employee Recognition

State Transportation Commission

Ted B. Wahby, Chair
Betty Jean Awrey, Vice Chair
Linda Miller Atkinson
Robert G. Bender
Vincent Brennan
John W. Garside

Give 'em a Brake

Continued from page 1



Maintenance workers from the Charlotte, Grand Ledge and Williamston garages attended the news conference with their children to remind motorists: "Please Slow Down! Moms & Dads Work Here." They were joined by Director Jeff, legislators, coalition members, and law enforcement officers on the Capitol steps.

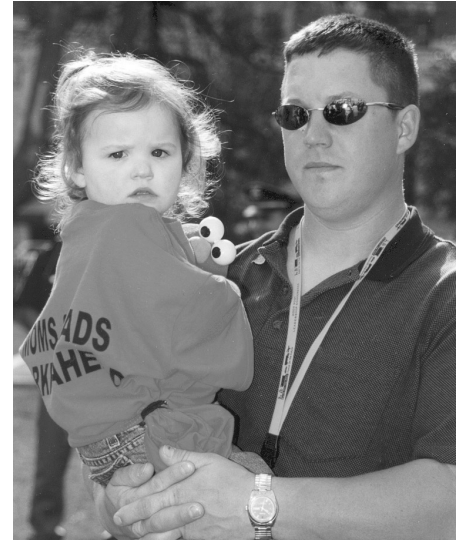
MDOT will spend \$517,000 in work-zone enforcement this year, bringing together the Michigan State Police, county sheriffs and local police to help track down offenders in work zones. MDOT TSC managers and other coordinators determine which high impact construction zones warrant the use of officers on patrol.

"Let this be fair warning: If you drive carelessly through a work zone, you may find a law enforcement officer waiting for you – with a ticket," said Col. Tadarial Sturdivant, director of the Michigan State Police.

The Give 'em a Brake coalition will spend approximately \$170,000 on a public awareness campaign which includes statewide billboards, and radio and television spots. The coalition represents labor and engineering unions, law enforcement officials and construction industry representatives, along with MDOT and other state agencies. The broadcast spots feature an animated character named "Bobby the Barrel" who warns people that speeding through work zones is dangerous and illegal. "Speeders put themselves, their passengers and workers at risk," reminds Bobby in the public service announcement. Bumper stickers also urge motorists to "Give 'em a Brake."

For further details about Give 'em a Brake, the ATSSA memorial, Michigan's work-zone laws, and statistics on work-zone crashes, go to the MDOT Web site at www.michigan.gov/highwaysafety.

National Work Zone Memorial visits Michigan Linda Wolven (left), daughter of MDOT worker Gerald Richard, lost her dad in 1981. She and her family traveled to Lansing to view his name on the national memorial wall.



Chris Allen, transportation maintenance worker at the Charlotte Garage, and his two-year-old daughter, Katie, take in the sights during the news conference. Katie wore her bright orange T-shirt with the message: "Give 'em a Brake. Moms and Dads working ahead."

Slow Down or Pay Up

Michigan's tough work-zone laws could result in increased penalties for Michigan speeders:

- **Fines for speeding are doubled.**
- **Points**
The number of points assessed to your driving record for speeding in a work zone is three, for up to 10 mph over the posted limit; four, for 10-15 mph over the limit and five for more than 15 mph over the limit. Your driver's license may be restricted, suspended or revoked if you accumulate 12 or more points within a two-year period.
- **Jail and fines**
The penalty for injuring a worker is up to a year in prison and up to 15 years for killing a worker. There is also a maximum fine of \$7,500.

"The message was clear: Work zones can be dangerous places to work. Wives and sisters, husbands and brothers work there. Please, slow down and drive carefully."



BUILD ON THE PAST FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Leadership and empowerment were apparent at the 2004 MDOT Leadership Conference held April 19 at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing.

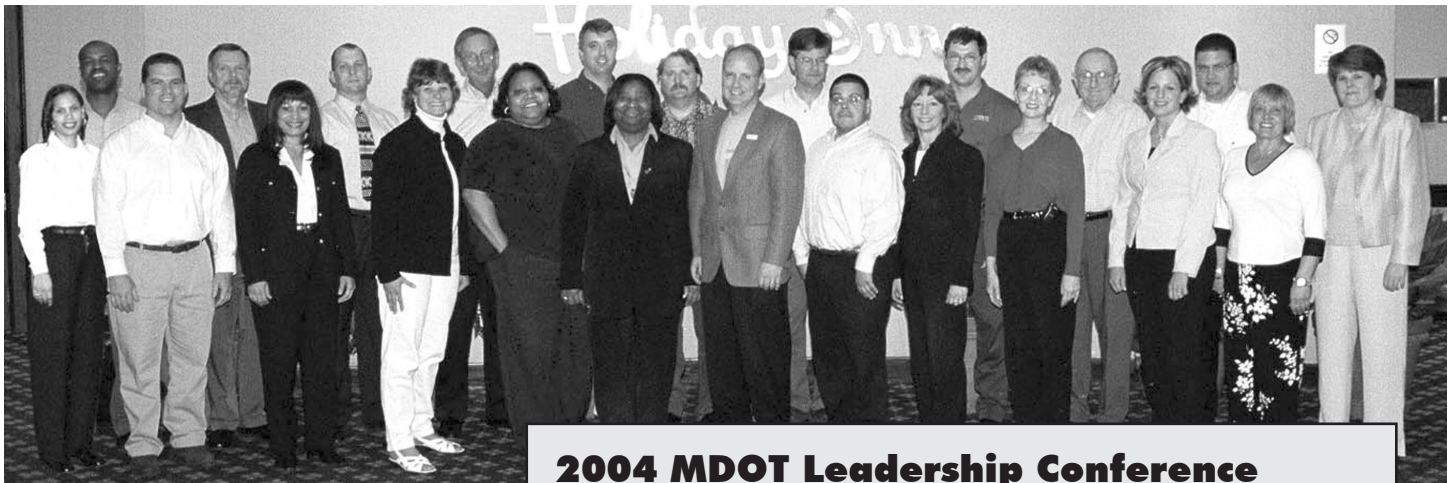
Superior Region's Dawn Garner moderated the morning session. As she called the conference to order, she observed that everyone in the room was obviously leadership material. It had been planned that participants would spend the first break playing a networking game. But, as Dawn noted, people had already taken out the networking cards and were "working the room," asking questions of one another. "It's obvious that MDOT is full of leaders," said Dawn. "You took charge of the situation."

In the morning, Director Jeff gave a welcoming address and showed a videotape review highlighting the achievements of Team MDOT in 2003. Marilyn French Hubbard, Ph.D., took the stage to help participants build on the past, reinvent themselves, and gain powerful leadership knowledge for turning the impossible into the possible, and the possible into reality.

Daniel Mulhern, Michigan's First Gentleman, donated his afternoon and delivered a presentation focused on various leadership principles and the importance of connecting with people. His presentation was based on a popular leadership book, "The Leadership

Challenge" by James Kouzes and Barry Posner. The conference ended with Director Jeff presenting the First Gentleman with an assortment of MDOT items, including a hard hat and safety vest. Participants were encouraged to turn in evaluation forms as they left; in exchange, each person received a copy of the book. MDOT's new EEO Officer, Cheryl Strayhorn, served as the afternoon moderator.

The theme of this year's conference was "Build on the Past, Focus on the Future." One of the key points of the conference: Leadership is not determined by position, but by what leaders do to inspire others to achieve their fullest potential.



The Leadership Conference Planning Team moved on the fast track to create the one-day conference for Team MDOT.



Dr. Marilyn French Hubbard spoke about "Eight Steps to Creating your Future."

2004 MDOT Leadership Conference Planning Team

Sylvia Alexander.....	Bureau of Finance and Administration
Larry Beckon	Performance Excellence Division, Facilitator
Matt Brinker	Multi-Modal Bureau
Bob Felt	Office of Communications
Lisa Funk	Passenger Transportation, Multi-Modal Bureau
Coleen Hines	Performance Excellence Division
Katrina Kaufman	Multi-Modal Bureau
Bill Mayhew	Mt. Pleasant TSC
Dee Parker	Jackson TSC, Chair
Jan Pohl	Executive Office
Jim Schultz	MITS Center, Metro Region
Paul South	Coloma TSC
Paul Steinman	Lansing TSC
Alica Suber	Executive Office
Amber Thelen	Office of Economic Development and Enhancement
Ron Vibbert	Asset Management Division
Jose Villarreal	Office of Human Resources
Dave Weber	Construction and Technology Support Area

A roving MDOT reporter asked conference participants: What leader inspires you and why?



Ron Seely, administrator, Multi-Modal, Aeronautics, Lansing:

"Colin Powell for his ability to clearly articulate ideas and concepts, and to motivate and inspire people."



Georgina McDonald, engineer, Traffic & Safety, Detroit TSC:

"My mother for standing by her convictions. Once she makes a final decision, she is not swayed by popular opinion."



Pete Wessel, bridge engineer, Superior Region:

"Kirk Steudle, who I knew when he was bridge engineer for the Bay Region. He was always interested in the growth of his employees and he empowered them to do more."



Brenda Peek, communications specialist, Metro Region:

"Thurgood Marshall, the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, who helped millions of people exercise their long-denied constitutional rights. Also, Harriet Tubman, who guided slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad, and all the people who helped along the way and assisted her in her efforts."



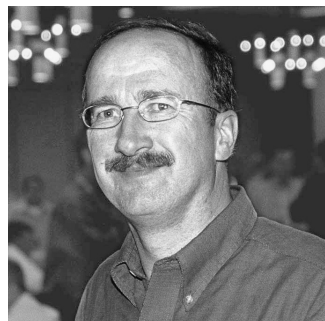
Therese Cody, analyst, Rail Passenger Services, Multi-Modal, Lansing:

"Dr. Jane Goodall for having a cause she was dedicated to. She rose through the ranks to become one of the world's leading authorities in her field. She chose to save chimpanzees' natural habitat and, in doing so, she preserved the rainforest and its potential to aid medical research and to provide answers to many unanswered questions for all of us."



Bob Sweeney, executive secretary, Mackinac Bridge Administration:

"Aaron Sweeney, my father. He taught me the value of striking a balance between work and family. He is a retired MDOT employee with over 40 years of service, an MDOT leader in many capacities. He faced extreme adversity at the pinnacle of his career, choosing to take a 50 percent pay cut for the benefit of his family, yet he always enjoyed his career at MDOT, where he worked as an assistant foreman in the St. Ignace Maintenance Garage. He encouraged me to pursue a degree in civil engineering and is the main reason that I chose to work for MDOT."



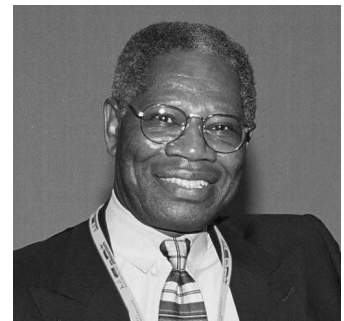
Michael Premo, manager, Crystal Falls TSC:

"Harry Truman and Teddy Roosevelt because they were presidents who were not afraid to make difficult decisions."



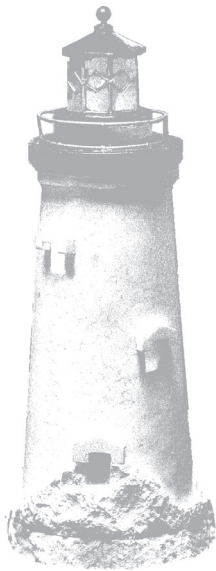
Brenda O'Brien, administrator, Construction & Technology Support Area, Secondary Complex, Lansing:

"Margaret Steiner, my high school gymnastic coach. She believed in us and made us believe in ourselves. She taught us that there was nothing that we as a team, or as individual gymnasts, could not accomplish if we worked hard enough for it."



Calvin Roberts, engineer, Central Maintenance Support Area:

"Director Jeff for her vision and sensitivity to others. She clearly wants to better understand the needs of her staff and tries to create an environment that maximizes the talents of MDOT employees. The Transportation Summit was a major undertaking that emphasized inclusion and built credibility for the department within the transportation community."

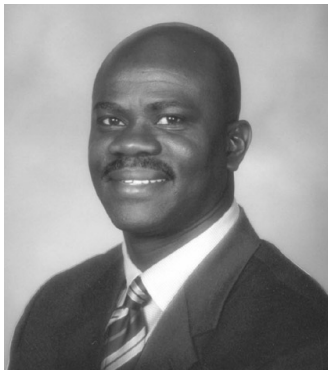


2004 Director's Award Winners

“Think of your dreams as possible blueprints for action.” —Author Unknown

In the stormy seas of conducting transportation business, today's leaders act as light keepers. Their hard work and dedication are steadfastly focused on goals which help light the course for all. To commemorate such outstanding achievement, just a few special people are selected each year to receive the department's top recognition – the Director's Award.

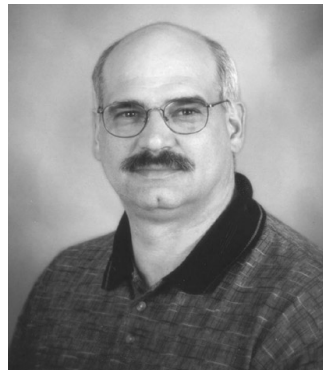
These finalists were recommended by panels comprised of previous Director's Award winners. We think you'll agree that these nine people represent the best of MDOT and its values. Their work demonstrates the award recipients' concern for quality, teamwork, customer orientation, integrity and pride.



Paul C. Ajegba
Operations/Traffic & Safety
University Region

Paul Ajegba is the Traffic & Safety/Operations engineer in the University Region. Paul's interaction with employees and clients is always carried out with the utmost integrity, honesty and respect. Under Paul's strong leadership, the Engineer Development Program (EDP) is one of the best in the state and one that other

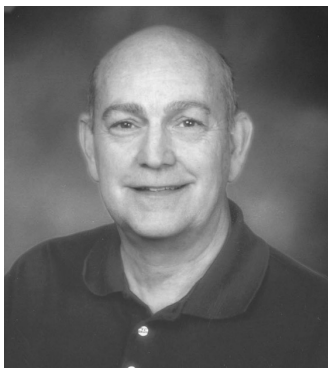
regions emulate. Following the recent early-out retirement, the Tecumseh Field Office was left short-handed and without a licensed engineer. When no one could be found to fill the vacancy, Paul volunteered to take on this added responsibility while retaining all his other duties. EDP engineers were asked to join him in Tecumseh to assist the overburdened office, allowing the staff to process their workload, and provide young engineers an opportunity to gain field experience.



John Dault
Maintenance - Ishpeming
TSC/Superior Region

John Dault is a transportation maintenance supervisor at the Ishpeming TSC in the Superior Region. He is an enthusiastic leader who sets an example for his crews and the entire department. He is always looking for ways to improve how we do business. His extensive research improved cost efficiency in salt usage at the L'Anse Garage

which led to an award from the Salt Institute. John has earned the nickname of "the snowplow guy" and wears it with pride. Last October, John's crews took over around-the-clock snowplowing for Houghton County. Within one month, a garage facility was secured, trucks moved into place, schedules worked out, and crews trained and transferred to create a fully functional garage to serve a county that averages more than 200 inches of snow each winter.



Doug Branch
Construction & Technology
Support Area
Highways/Delivery

Doug Branch is a civil technician specialist with the Construction & Technology (C&T) Support Area in Lansing. In the past decade, C&T has lost a tremendous amount of expertise, practical and technical experience, and knowledge due to retirements, etc. Many of those significant

voids have been voluntarily handled by Doug who has taken on countless challenges. He is an organizer of job duties, data files, resources and people – creating a well-integrated operation responsive to customer needs. Through Doug's efforts, MDOT's internal laboratory accreditation maintenance process is now more uniform and organized. As a resource to the regions, Doug is known as the go-to person for problems involving construction materials and techniques.



Doris A. Elksnis
Administration - Kalamazoo
TSC/Southwest Region

Doris Elksnis, an employee who consistently shows initiative beyond her typical job duties, is the administrative assistant for the Kalamazoo TSC. She is always upbeat and attentive to everyone's needs – someone you can count on to go the extra mile for employees and customers alike. Doris helped to develop a region

newsletter and has taken on the major responsibility to assure its publication. She is an active member of the Region Strategic Management Team, responsible for publishing and helping to update their strategic work plan. She suggested and initiated team building for the Transportation Service Center staff, even hiring a consultant to work with the team. She is always looking for ways to improve the TSC's processes. Whether she is working with the staff or a transport permit customer, Doris is often the driving force in creating a better system.



Mark S. Geib

**Executive - Kalamazoo TSC/
Southwest Region**

From resident engineer in Coloma, to Region delivery engineer, and now serving as Kalamazoo TSC manager, Mark Geib emulates all of the values important to MDOT. He is ethical, customer-oriented, responsible, resourceful, team-oriented and an excellent leader. Mark regularly volunteers for teams

and committees which he believes will address problem areas. For example, Mark realized that the TMW Work Element Plan was antiquated and needed revision. He participated on a statewide team that developed and implemented a new program, then took the initiative to help critique and update the program in order to meet the constantly changing needs of the transportation maintenance worker. Mark was instrumental in developing the self-directed maintenance work teams in Southwest Region.



Gary L. Rose

**Traffic Signals
Maintenance Support Area**

Gary Rose is a licensed electrician and serves as the lead worker for a crew of up to three electricians which supports region operations. Gary's duties include inspecting the technical aspects of traffic signal work performed by electrical contractors statewide. One of the reasons MDOT is a leader in the advancement of

traffic signal technology is directly related to Gary's continuing input and concern for doing the right thing. He mentors other MDOT inspectors and electrical contractors while fostering a broad knowledge of what constitutes good workmanship throughout the industry. Gary provides technical input in a straightforward manner, while maintaining a positive attitude. This "can-do" approach promotes team spirit during stressful times and assures quality work. Gary is clearly an employee who goes above and beyond in every aspect of his work.

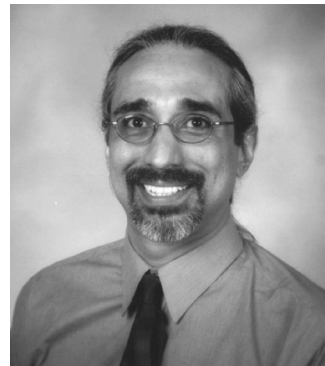


Z. Kris Wisniewski

**Intermodal Policy Division
Transportation Planning**

Kris Wisniewski serves as the federal/binational policy specialist in Planning's Intermodal Policy Division. In his dual role, he is responsible for analyzing federal legislation, including reauthorization legislation, and for MDOT's border policy work. Kris has been instrumental during the reauthorization process, initiating a proactive effort to

work with the full spectrum of stakeholders to identify a unified position for Michigan. He also helped organize and motivate the multi-state SHARE coalition (State Highway Alliance for Real Equity) to help Michigan and other donor states bring more money home for transportation. Kris's role in the arena of border policy has expanded significantly since Sept. 11, 2001. He has worked tirelessly with a variety of stakeholders on both sides of the border to keep Michigan's border traffic moving.



Benito (Benny) Zamora

**Bridge Design
Design Support Area**

Benny Zamora is a civil technician supervisor in Bridge Design. He directs the unit's drafting activities in the preparation of bridge plans and other major structures. 2003 was a bittersweet year in Design, as Lansing Road Design staff were deployed to the regions and

TSCs. Benny was reassigned to a bridge unit while he continued to work with the deployed Road Design unit. Throughout the years, Benny assisted the division by being a member of the drafting committee, performing special assignments for negligence cases, recruiting for the department, and assisting on special projects. He is a great team player who is always looking for a better way to do things. A positive person with an upbeat attitude, Benny is a compassionate mentor who is always willing to go the extra mile. 🐶



Jan M. Seeger

**Performance Excellence
Division
Finance & Administration**

Jan Seeger is responsible for designing, managing and measuring the success of the department's reward and recognition programs, the Education Support Program and the Tuition Reimbursement Program. Jan is recognized as the go-to person for information about recognition

programs not only at MDOT, but throughout state government, as MDOT's programs are considered the most comprehensive. She often steps outside her regular job description to volunteer for special assignments, including serving as the first customer service representative for the first three pilot TSCs. She helped facilitate the governor's Vision and Values training and the 2003 Transportation Summit. She is often called upon by the Executive team to help with special recognitions and, very recently, the revitalization of the Transpo Club. Because Jan is so dedicated to Team MDOT, special assignments seem commonplace to her.

2004 Director's Award Runners-up

Dean Aberly	Superior Region, Crystal Falls TSC
David Baker	Multi-Modal, Airport Division, Lansing
Charles Broderick	Southwest Region, Coloma TSC
Steve Burkholder	North Region, Marion Garage
Linda Durfee	Bureau of Development, Design Support Area, Lansing
Clyde Furney	Southwest Region, Paw Paw Repair Facility
Dave Geiger	Bay Region, Executive
Mark Grennell	Multi-Modal, Airport Division, Lansing
Yvonne Guerra	University Region, Jackson TSC
Patty Heslip	Superior Region, Executive
Duane Johnson	Multi-Modal, Passenger Transportation Division, Lansing
Polly Kent	Bureau of Transportation Planning, Policy Division, Lansing
Robert Kinsella	Superior Region, International Bridge
Mark Kleikamp	Superior Region, Escanaba TSC
Germaine Kowatch	Operations Administrative Services, Lansing
Connie Morrison	Bureau of Transportation Planning, Policy Division, Lansing
Sonja Scheurer	Operations Administrative Services, Lansing
Steve Shepler	University Region, Lansing TSC
Kathy Teitsma	Grand Region, Executive
Roger Till	Bureau of Delivery, Construction and Technology Support Area, Lansing
Julie VanPortfliet	Superior Region, Construction
Greg Vanis	University Region, Brighton TSC
Ron Vibbert	Bureau of Transportation Planning, Asset Management Section, Lansing
Brian Whitfield	Bureau of Finance and Administration, Technological Services, Graphics Unit, Lansing



Laborers reunite 50 years after work started on Mackinac Bridge

Even as dignitaries broke ground May 7, 1954, skeptics considered the project far-fetched: a bridge across the five-mile-wide, windswept water separating Michigan's Lower and Upper Peninsulas. But on Friday, May 7, 2004, a crowd of retired laborers and officials who proved the doubters wrong, joyfully celebrated the golden anniversary of the start of construction on the Mackinac Bridge.

During a ceremony on the north shore of the straits, the Mackinac Bridge Authority and MDOT unveiled a gold-colored token coin engraved with images of the bridge on one side and several ironworkers on the other.

Speakers hailed the Mighty Mac as no ordinary bridge, but an engineering marvel and a cultural icon – a symbol of perseverance and courage that helped unite the state, lessening the Upper Peninsula's isolation and strengthening its economy.

"The bridge totally revolutionized everything," said Larry Rubin, 91, the first executive secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority. "Before the bridge, it was like the U.P. was part of northern Wisconsin." Back then, motorists waited as long as 18 hours to catch a car ferry across the straits. Lines extended for miles. While building the bridge was no easy task, securing funding was equally challenging. Finally, Union Securities Corp. came through with nearly \$100 million, which the bridge authority paid off with toll revenue over the next 32 years.

Once work began in 1954, thousands of ironworkers rushed to fill jobs paying better than \$3 an hour. Workers knew the job was dangerous but didn't dwell on it. Three years later, at the cost of the lives of five construction workers, the bridge opened to traffic on Nov. 1, 1957.

—Reprinted from the *Lansing State Journal* [May 8, 2004]



Bridge workers from as far away as Florida took their turns at the podium to introduce themselves and tell what they did during the construction of the Mackinac Bridge.

Larry Rubin, MBA's first executive secretary.



Gov. Granholm and Planning's Pete Hanses (left) were among the participants to help celebrate the dedication of US-12 as a Heritage Trail. Office of Economic Development Administrator Jackie Shinn and University Region Engineer Mark Chaput also participated. The dedication took place in Cambridge Junction at Walker Tavern, built in 1832 as a stagecoach stop.

US-23 earns Heritage Route designation as "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway"

Following two and a half years of planning, a 200-mile stretch of US-23 from Standish to Mackinaw City – along the beautiful shores of Lake Huron – has received official designation as a State Recreational Heritage Route.

Heritage Route designation is intended to boost tourism to the region through enhanced marketing and access to improvement grants. Signs will appear on US-23 to indicate the route and it will be indicated on future state highway maps.

Initiated by Rep. Sheltrown (D-West Branch) and Tom Ferguson of Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association in the summer of 2001, the process began with the collection of resolutions of support from local units of government along the route.

"I have heard a tremendous amount of public support for the Heritage Route," said Sheltrown. "Not one negative comment was submitted during the public comment period. Northeast Michigan understands how important tourism is to our region's economy and designation of US-23 as a Heritage Route is an important step in promoting the diversity of attractions the Sunrise Side has to offer."



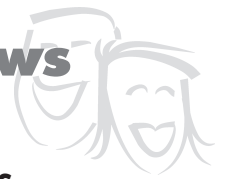
MDOT staff members from the Alpena TSC and North Region office join local officials and politicians to provide the backdrop for the main highway sign designating the state's longest Recreational Heritage Route.

US-12 designated as U.S. Heritage Trail

On June 9, MDOT dedicated US-12 as a Historic Heritage Trail. To obtain the Heritage Trail designation, MDOT partnered with local governments, landowners and businesses to develop a corridor management plan that will act as the guide for future corridor decisions and positively influence economic development along the route. The route will be known as the "US-12 Heritage Trail" for promotional and marketing purposes.

The 212-mile highway stretches across the southern tier of Michigan, crossing Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. It is one of the oldest roadways east of the Mississippi River. Known by many names throughout the years, including the Sauk Trail, the Chicago Road and Michigan Avenue, the corridor originally consisted of a network of centuries-old trails created by Native Americans.





Residents from the town of Niles turn out to celebrate the arrival of Amtrak's Blue Water train.

Amtrak's new Blue Water service makes inaugural run

New Blue Water train service runs daily between Port Huron and Chicago, with intermediate station stops at Lapeer, Flint, Durand, East Lansing, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Dowagiac and Niles. The service replaces the Toronto-Chicago International and is financially supported by MDOT.

Under a new agreement between Amtrak and MDOT, ticket agents are returning to stations in Flint, East Lansing and Port Huron. Passengers can now purchase tickets and get up-to-date information from an Amtrak agent at these three locations.

To celebrate the new rail service, Amtrak and MDOT Rail Passenger Services hosted a nine-city, progressive inaugural run. More than 250 people, including legislators and mayors from seven cities, participated with MDOT Director Gloria Jeff and Amtrak President David Gunn.

Construction under the Capitol dome

An aggressive, two-year project is under way in Lansing's Capitol Loop district. The area under construction circles the Capitol and impacts state government operations in the downtown core. Improvements include road reconstruction, major utility work as part of Lansing's combined sewer overflow (CSO) separation project and streetscape improvements. This year, streets under construction include Ottawa Street, Capitol Avenue, and Pine Street. In 2005, Allegan Street and Walnut Street will be affected. To accommodate repairs, streets are closed or narrowed in the downtown area and motorists are asked to be patient and find alternate routes. For more information about this project, go to MDOT's Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdot and click on the Capitol Loop icon.



With the Capitol dome in the background, contractors are excavating 30 feet below the pavement to accommodate major utility work.

Updated Web site for gasoline consumers

In an effort led by Team MDOT, the state unveiled an updated Web site – www.michigan.gov/gasprices – to provide consumers with convenient, timely information on gasoline prices, as well as tips for conserving fuel and saving money at the pump.

**THIS WAY TO
GAS SAVINGS**

MITS Center hosts ITS delegation from Japan

MDOT officials and engineers hosted a visit to the MITS Center in Detroit by a delegation of ITS professionals from Japan in April. The half-day visit was planned as an exchange of ideas and experiences, and to highlight various aspects of the department's ITS and VII (Vehicle and Infrastructure Integration) programs. In turn, the MDOT group learned about the JARI (Japanese Auto Research Center) and the many public-private partnerships in Japan.

Representing MDOT were:

Larry Tibbits, chief operations officer, who served as facilitator; Bill Tansil, administrator, Asset Management Division; Jim Schultz, ITS program manager; Tom Mullin, ITS engineer, MITS Center; Tony Kratofil, Metro Region deputy region engineer; John Friend, deputy director, Bureau of Delivery; Scott Thompson, Client Services director, MDIT; and Frank Cardimen, ITS Michigan executive director. "The world is so much smaller now with technology," said Larry Tibbits. "Here in the Metro area, we have the same type of traffic congestion on a daily basis as the Japanese. It is important that we share the latest advances in intelligent transportation initiatives with one another to bring the best practices online for our motorists as quickly as possible."

Check out these sites! New Transpo Club Web site

Check out the new Transpo Club Web site at

http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623_30394---,00.html. The site includes: how to become a member; club meeting dates and minutes; club officers; club history; and a calendar of events. Eventually the site will allow you to view and order MDOT logo merchandise such as T-shirts, baseball hats, and water bottles. ☺





Roberta Tisdale

MI HR (formerly called HRMN) Provides Useful and Interesting Information

Lately I was wondering how much money I made when I was hired at the State of Michigan in 1978. I thought it was less than \$5 per hour, but I couldn't really believe that my stenographer wage was that low. I was able to satisfy my curiosity by using MI HR/HRMN Self-Service. It turns out that my hourly wage was \$4.30 an hour. MI HR provides lots of information. Check it out.

Want to check out your starting pay?

- (1) Go to the MI HR Employee Self-Service Gateway
- (2) Click on "log in"
- (3) Enter your user name and password; click "OK"
- (4) Click on "Self-Service Account"
- (5) Click on "Employee"
- (6) Select "Employment"
- (7) Click on "Historical Job Information"
- (8) Click on "Legacy History" (pre-March 18, 2001)

Scheduled to be operational Aug. 1, 2004:

New MI HR Service Center hours will be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Roberta Tisdale is the Office of Human Resources administrator. To reach her, call 517-373-1680 or e-mail tisdaler@michigan.gov

Employees can visit OHR on the Interchange: <http://interchange.mdot.state.mi.us/ohr>

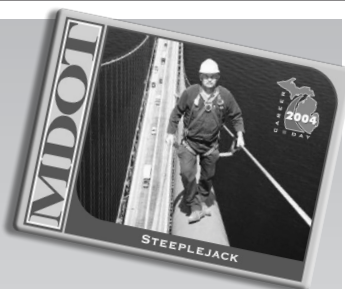
MDOT Career Day Students Give Career Planning the Green Light

Transportation Career Day planned to make an impression on Lansing-area high school students as they considered future career options at MDOT. And make an impression it did. These photos offer a glimpse into some of the many activities that took place during the one-day event on May 5, 2004.

One of the many big hits was an idea that expands on the age-old baseball trading cards which kids still love to collect – only these MDOT trading cards illustrate the different career options within MDOT.

The trading card idea originated with Joe Villarreal, OHR recruitment specialist, who got the idea from a photographer who offered photos of his children's baseball team members in the format of trading cards.

Each Career Day participant was given six of the 24 trading cards and encouraged to trade and collect the cards that represented careers that interested them. 🍀



OHR Staff

Effective team work contributed to a successful Career Day. Pictured are OHR staff members (left to right): Mary Jane Bornemann, Tammy Mans, Jeremy Miller, Cheryl Ward, Tracy Ruh, Kirsten Cole, Lisa Price, Joetta Parker, Stacy Briggs, Karee Briner, Michelle Sedell, Donna Horn (Development), Joe Villarreal, and Mary Withers.



Maintenance

Using a hands-on approach to Career Day – or, in this case, "feet-on," students climb aboard a Maintenance truck to check it out.



Aeronautics

Phil Tartalone, Aeronautics, identifies the different types of planes available and their uses.



Construction & Technology

Pavement Design Engineer Michael Eacker demonstrates C&T's Ground Penetrating Radar equipment.

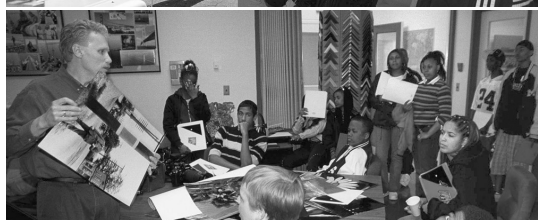


Photo Lab

Photographer Tim Burke discusses situations that can develop while working as a photographer.

The *Family Tree* column provides news about changes in the MDOT family tree: appointments, retirements, and, sadly, deaths. News about an employee's or a retiree's passing is sent to us by various methods. If you have information about a death, birth or adoption in our MDOT family – or in your immediate family – please send it to the *MDOT Today* mailbox at MDOTToday@michigan.gov or contact Joan Justema at 517-241-2738. Welcome to all MDOT new hires and congratulations to all MDOTers who were recently promoted!

Appointments



Linda Miller Atkinson

Linda Miller Atkinson, (D) of Channing, was appointed to the State Transportation Commission by Governor Granholm effective March 19, 2004. A partner of Nelson,

Petruska, Atkinson & Hart; Trial Lawyers of Gaylord, St. Ignace and Channing, Ms. Atkinson is a member of the Michigan State Bar, the Wisconsin State Bar and the Indiana State Bar and is a certified facilitator in U.S. DC, Western District. Atkinson holds a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in Ohio and a law degree from Wayne State University Law School. Her current term will expire on Dec. 21, 2006. Atkinson replaced Robert Baillod, whose term expired.



Vincent Brennan

Vincent Brennan, (I) of Grosse Pointe Park, was appointed to the State Transportation Commission by Governor Granholm effective March 19, 2004. Brennan is

Vice President of Everest Energy. A member of the State Bar of Michigan, he received a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University and a law degree from Detroit College of Law. His current term will expire on Dec. 21, 2006. Brennan replaced Lowell Jackson, whose term expired.

Deaths



(William) Dean Bullen

(William) Dean Bullen, 79, died on Jan. 29, 2004. Since 1961, Dean supervised a unit of MDOT engineers involved in special assignments, such as analysis of existing highway bridges for load capacity, preparation of plans for repair or strengthening weak or damaged bridges, and special investigation and research. Dean retired in 1987, after a 38-year career at MDOT where he was acknowledged as the state's top design authority for the restoration of damaged highway bridges. In recognition for his many contributions to the department and the state, a freeway rest area along east-bound I-96 (just west of Lansing) was named for him. Dean won an MDOT Director's Award in 1987, which acknowledged his innovative solutions to the problems of damaged bridges. In 1970, Dean designed a 6,000-foot seawall to protect the shoreline along the I-94 Business Loop in St. Joseph. In his retirement, Dean researched and published his family's genealogical tree. Dean is survived by Mary, his wife of 16 years. Mary knew Dean since she was just three years old, however, they did not marry until after he had retired.

Walter B. Washington, 72, died of respiratory failure on May 5, 2004, in Detroit. Walter was a traffic engineer who worked at MDOT for 35 years. At the time of his retirement in May 1991, Walter was a litigation manager in the Metro Region. In his spare time, Walter liked to run, play golf and tennis, and most of all, take photos. He had a long-running exhibit, "Right in Your Own Backyard," that hung in the National Bank of Detroit and won first place in a newspaper photo contest. Walter earned four college degrees during his lifetime, including a law degree. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Wanda; and three daughters, Charlotte LaRae Washington, Roshon Locklear (Grady), and Karri Elise.



Tyrone Ussery

Tyrone Ussery, 53, DIT Agency Services, MDOT Division, died of a heart attack in Lansing on May 10, 2004. Tyrone joined MDOT in February 1991, after working at the Department of Treasury. In his most recent position, Tyrone was an IT programmer/analyst working in configuration management, data modeling, data administration and project management, as well as other areas. Tyrone had a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, along with a master's degree in Computer Science. He also was a wizard in mathematics. Tyrone, who had a big, kind heart, was a deacon in his church and aspired to be a minister. Tyrone's colleagues in "OIM" will miss him and "his songs." Tyrone loved jazz, old school R&B and gospel music. Tyrone is survived by his wife, Amanda; and three children: a daughter, Timberly; a son, TJ, and a stepson, Terry. 🐦

COURTESY OF STAFF

Births/Adoptions

Claire Carter, department analyst, Contract Services, became a grandmother for the second time when her daughter, Jessica, gave birth to granddaughter Amber Marie on March 16, 2004. Amber has a 2-year-old sister named Drew Ann. (Ed. note: Hey, we can't include 'em unless you tell us about 'em, so send 'em in!)

"If a man carefully examines his thoughts he will be surprised to find how much he lives in the future. His well-being is always ahead."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Employee Recognition Week

Three Cheers for Team MDOT!



Director Jeff led members of the Executive team – complete with pom-poms – in a cheer that acknowledged all MDOT employees for their hard work and dedication.



As pom-poms bobbed to-and-fro, the Executive cheerleading team belted out a cheer to acknowledge and thank all MDOT employees during Employee Recognition Week in Lansing.

Although lots of thank-you celebrations were scheduled throughout the state in honor of Employee Recognition Week, the Lansing event on May 7 was perhaps

the biggest. Approximately 500 Lansing-area employees attended the pep rally held in the Van Wagoner Transportation Building courtyard. The message they received was intended for MDOT employees throughout the state.

Gov. Granholm was on hand to meet and greet those who attended. "I am honored to lead a state that is defined by such a

dedicated and respectable workforce," Granholm said. "I recognize that I could not do my job without the support and hard work of the men and women who serve the people of Michigan every day. Thank you for all that you do as public servants."

Director Jeff thanked MDOTers in an April 28 memo: Employee Recognition Week gives me another perfect opportunity to thank you for doing an outstanding job.

See the complete memo (select "Director Memo") and more photos (available on the Photography Unit's site under Technological Services) on the *Interchange* at: <http://interchange.mdot.state.mi.us/>.



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